

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 16388 01 OF 02 051810Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1096
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WHITEHOUSE WASH DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 16388

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR THE ATTENTION OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE FROM
AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR US EG IS
SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT
- TO EGYPT

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH BRIEF, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT HAD POSITIVE IMPACT AND WAS VIEWED HERE AS EVIDENCE OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP SADAT HAS DEVELOPED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. BOTH PRIMIN AND FONMIN TOLD ME SADAT VERY PLEASED WITH DISCUSSIONS AND ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT VICE PRESIDENT RECONFIRMED AGREED UPON CAMP DAVID STRATEGY. AS RESULT INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, SADAT HAD NOT ONLY AGREED TO SEND FONMIN TO LONDON MEETING, BUT DECIDED TO GIVE VICE PRESIDENT EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL. VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS TO SADAT ABOUT ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DELIBERALIZATION WERE ESPECIALLY USEFUL SINCE MADE IN PRESENCE OF PRIMIN SALEM. ON PERSONAL BASIS, VICE PRESIDENT WAS GREAT HIT WITH GOE LEADERS. PRESS HAS PORTRAYED VISIT AS MAJOR STEP IN RENEWAL OF PEACE MOMENTUM. END SUMMARY.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 16388 01 OF 02 051810Z

2. VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S JULY 3 VISIT TO EGYPT, THOUGH BRIEF, HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT. EGYPTIANS ARE PLEASED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT, AFTER INITIALLY PLANNING ONLY TO VISIT ISRAEL, SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO MAKE A BRIEF STOP IN EGYPT. THEY ARE AWARE THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY MADE THIS DECISION AND APPRECIATE

IT. WHILE SADAT'S CRITICS POINT TO THE DISPARITY IN LENGTH OF VICE PRESIDENT'S STAY IN ISRAEL AND EGYPT, THE EGYPTIAN ESTABLISHMENT EMPHASIZES THAT EGYPT IS THE ONLY ARAB COUNTRY VISITED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THAT THERE WAS ADEQUATE TIME FOR FULL TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. THUS, FROM AN IMAGE POINT OF VIEW WITHIN EGYPT AND IN THE ARAB WORLD, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA IS VIEWED HERE AS EVIDENCE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP SADAT HAS DEVELOPED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE ADMINISTRATION. PRIOR TO THE VISIT, EGYPTIANS WERE CONCERNED THAT IT WOULD BE USED BY THE ISRAELIS TO WIN SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION IN ARAB/ISRAELI DISPUTE. CRITICAL ISRAELI PRESS ALLAYED THESE CONCERNS AND MADE THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HERE THAT MUCH MORE WELCOME. THE VICE PRESIDENT'S HANDLING OF THE DELICATE EAST JERUSALEM VISIT, IN FACE OF ISRAELI PRESSURE, ALSO WON EGYPTIAN COMMENDATION.

3. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK PERSONALLY WITH SADAT ABOUT VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, I HAD OCCASION LAST EVENING AT OUR JULY 4 RECEPTION TO HEAR COMMENTS OF SEVERAL SENIOR EGYPTIANS WHO PARTICIPATED. PRIMIN SALEM AND FONMIN KAMEL TOLD ME, SEPARATELY, THAT SADAT IS VERY PLEASED WITH HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT. SALEM SAID SADAT HAD COMMENTED THAT
SECRET

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 16388 01 OF 02 051810Z

THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS BOTH UNDERSTANDING AND FORTHCOMING. SADAT HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO HAVE THE VICE PRESIDENT RECONFIRM THAT THE STRATEGY WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER AND SADAT AGREED UPON AT CAMP DAVID WILL CONTINUE TO BE PURSUED. KAMEL REMARKED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HAD GIVEN SADAT ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO GET SOME THINGS OFF HIS CHEST, ESPECIALLY SADAT'S BELIEF THAT WE ARE NOT DOING ENOUGH IN AFRICA TO MEET THE SOVIET THREAT. KAMEL ALSO NOTED THAT SADAT HAD BEEN WILLING TO ANNOUNCE THAT, AS A RESULT OF VICE PRESIDENT CONVEYING AN ORAL INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, HE, SADAT, HAD AGREED TO SEND KAMEL TO MEET WITH DAYAN IN LONDON AND HAD IN FACT GONE BEYOND THIS BY ADDING THAT HE WAS GIVING THE VICE PRESIDENT THE EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA PROPOSAL. SADAT, ACCORDING TO KAMEL, DID SO TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE HIS CONTINUED INTEREST IN MOVING TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND TO ENABLE THE USG TO POSITION ITSELF TO PRESENT ITS OWN IDEAS. KAMEL LAUGHINGLY INDICATED THAT THE SCENARIO HE AND I HAD DISCUSSED PREVIOUS DAY ABOUT HANDING THESE TWO MATTERS HAD BEEN ACCELERATED BY TWO DAYS.

4. APART FROM MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN PROBLEMS THAT WERE DISCUSSED, THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY A WORD TO SADAT ABOUT THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF HIS DELIBERALIZATION CAMPAIGN. AS PART OF AN EFFORT THAT WE HAVE BEEN MAKING WITH SADAT ABOUT THE DANGERS

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 16388 02 OF 02 051813Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 16388

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

OF HIS DELIBERALIZATION CAMPAIGN, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ACTION IN ALSO MENTIONING SUBJECT IS BOUND TO BE HELPFUL. SADAT DID NOT TAKE IT AMISS AND ASSURED THE VICE PRESIDENT THAT DEMOCRACY IN EGYPT WILL CONTINUE. TO MY MIND, IT WAS ESPECIALLY USEFUL THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT MADE HIS COMMENT WHILE PRIMIN SALEM WAS PRESENT. SALEM HAS BEEN ONE OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL ASSOCIATES OF SADAT WHO HAS PRESSED THE PRESIDENT ON THE NEED TO ACT AGAINST SOME OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND LEADERS.

5. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, THE VICE PRESIDENT MADE A GREAT HIT. HIS EASY, PLEASANT MANNER ENDEARED HIM VERY QUICKLY TO SADAT, VP MUBARAK AND THE OTHER SENIOR EGYPTIANS PRESENT. ON THE FLIGHT BACK FROM GIANACLIS TO CAIRO, VP MUBARAK SPOKE GLOWINGLY OF THE VICE PRESIDENT. HE EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. MONDALE WOULD INDEED BE ABLE TO VISIT EGYPT FOR A LONGER PERIOD NEXT WINTER.

6. EGYPTIAN PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HAS GENERALLY BEEN POSITIVE. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS PLAYED THE VICE

PRESIDENT'S VISIT AS A MAJOR USG STEP IN RENEWING THE
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 16388 02 OF 02 051813Z

MOMENTUM FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS.

7. IN SHORT, WHILE THE VISIT WAS BRIEF, IT WAS AN
UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. EILTS

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